

A¹
16. (Amended) A method of producing a polypeptide having the biological activity of a mammalian MNR2 which comprises growing the host cells of claim 14 under suitable conditions permitting production of the polypeptide.

A²
34. (Amended) An antibody directed to an epitope of an MNR2 protein of claim 27.

44. (Amended) A method of producing the isolated protein of claim 27 which comprises:

(a) inserting a nucleic acid molecule encoding a MNR2 protein into a suitable vector;

(b) introducing the resulting vector into a suitable host cell;

(c) selecting the introduced host cell for the expression of the MNR2 protein;

(d) culturing the selected cell to produce the MNR2 protein; and

(e) recovering the MNR2 protein produced

A³
45. (Amended) A method of inducing differentiation of somatic motoneurons in a subject comprising administering to the subject the purified MNR2 protein of claim 27 in an amount effective to induce differentiation of somatic motor neurons in the subject.

A⁴
48. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a purified MNR2 protein of claim 27 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

A⁵
76. (Amended) A method of producing a polypeptide having the biological activity of a mammalian HB9 which comprises growing the host cells of claim 74 under suitable conditions permitting production of the polypeptide.

A⁶
94. (Amended) An antibody directed to an epitope of an HB9 protein of claim 87.

104. (Amended) A method of producing the isolated protein of claim 87 which comprises:

- A7
- (a) inserting a nucleic acid molecule encoding a HB9 protein into a suitable vector;
 - (b) introducing the resulting vector into a suitable hostcell;
 - (c) selecting the introduced host cell for the expression of the HB9 protein;
 - (d) culturing the selected cell to produce the HB9 protein; and
 - (e) recovering the HB9 protein produced.

105. (Amended) A method of inducing differentiation of somatic motor neurons in a subject comprising administering to the subject the purified HB9 protein of claim 87 in an amount effective to induce differentiation of somatic motor neurons in the subject.

AB 108. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a purified HB9 protein of claim 87 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

REMARKS

This application is a continuation of PCT International Application No. PCT/US99/22517, filed 29 September 1999, designating the United States of America, which is a continuation-in-part and claims priority of U.S. Serial No. 09/162,524, filed September 29, 1998. Accordingly, the parent application, PCT International Application No. PCT/US99/22517, is pending today in the United States of America pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §363, and the subject continuation application is co-pending therewith in fulfillment of the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §120.

By this Preliminary Amendment, applicants have hereinabove amended the specification on page 1 to insert the continuation data. Applicants maintain that the amendments made hereinabove do not raise any issue of new matter. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request entry of the Amendment.